

NATIONAL Enough to drive you potty

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

WALK AROUND Jordan and you will be kicking up ancient shreds of pottery wherever you go. For ceramics, that oldest form of art in the history of man's civilisation was — especially in Islamic times — one of the most popular forms of artistic expression. People practising the art of ceramics in Jordan today however, are few and far between. Or so it would seem unless you came to Amman this week — the week when the work of three ceramists has gone on exhibition.

Opening at Suhail Bishara's Gallery in Jabal Amman Thursday at 7 p.m. are the unique ceramic reliefs of Maha Otaqui. Mrs. Otaqui — an artist of some experience — has studied for her B.A. in fine arts for four years in Beirut and one year in Paris. She also has taught ceramics at the Haya Arts Centre and learnt about commercial production by working at the ceramics factory here in Jordan. She started working for this, her first solo exhibition, back in 1979.

Difficult to classify, her works are best just described. They are, for the most part, small ceramic tiles on which the artist has either built upon or etched into in order to depict the typical square houses that are seen all over Jordan and

the West Bank from the cluttered hillsides of Amman to the distant villages in rural areas.

Early attempts at expressing the inspiration Mrs. Otaqui had felt when seeing the detailed and spell-binding prints made by David Roberts of this area in the 1880's were characterised by only one or two quite large houses that filled the tiny tile and by coarser detailing. The colours — the dark blue and earthy brown glazes — softened and enhanced the scene. These initial pieces were slowly refined — additional inspiration coming this time from a telescope, focused on the steps, doorways and arches of distant Ashrafyah, on the balcony of her own home. Now many tiny houses crowd the tile, each with its own minute detailing — a decorated balcony, a half shuttered window, the stairs that lead mysteriously away through an arched entrance, all in glazes that match the turquoises, blues and bieges of the real scene.

A certain naivete characterises Mrs. Otaqui's work which she exploits to get across what she really feels. By giving certain houses greater depth and substance, or by letting the houses float in the air — by in fact ignoring all the rules of perspective and reality — Mrs. Otaqui manages to catch exactly the importance, the prominence that some houses exert over their neighbours

because of some distinctive feature or colour, even though they are more distant.

This style — which is further used in the stereotyped format of the houses and trees — along with the diminutive size of the pieces, gives the artist's work an instant appeal and a great attractive quality. And although her works are getting larger — Mrs. Otaqui is developing by spreading the scene over more than one tile — she still maintains these qualities. On these latter pieces, which cover six tiles or more, greater panoramas unfold revealing a village climbing the hillside or a small town stacked with tiny houses complete with school and mosques, or two lonely palms in the desert under the hot red sun.

Other new developments include a greater attention to architectural detailing — one or

two of the tiles depict water fountains, doorways and castle keeps — and to perspectives. These are obviously the directions along which Mrs. Otaqui should experiment, but a too rigid adherence to formal composition and accurate perspective techniques would take away the spontaneity, originality and freshness of her present work.

At the Haya Arts Centre two young ceramists, Issam Nuseirat and Vivian Batshoun, are also exhibiting their work this week. Of the two, 24-year-old Irbid born Mr. Nuseirat has the more experience for he has participated in both the Jordan Artists Association's second annual exhibition last December and in the Spring National Festival held in Aqaba and Amman last April. After graduating in ceramics from the Institute of Fine Arts in Baghdad,

Mr. Nuseirat came back to Jordan and began teaching at the Haya Arts Centre where he has been able to use the facilities to continue his own work.

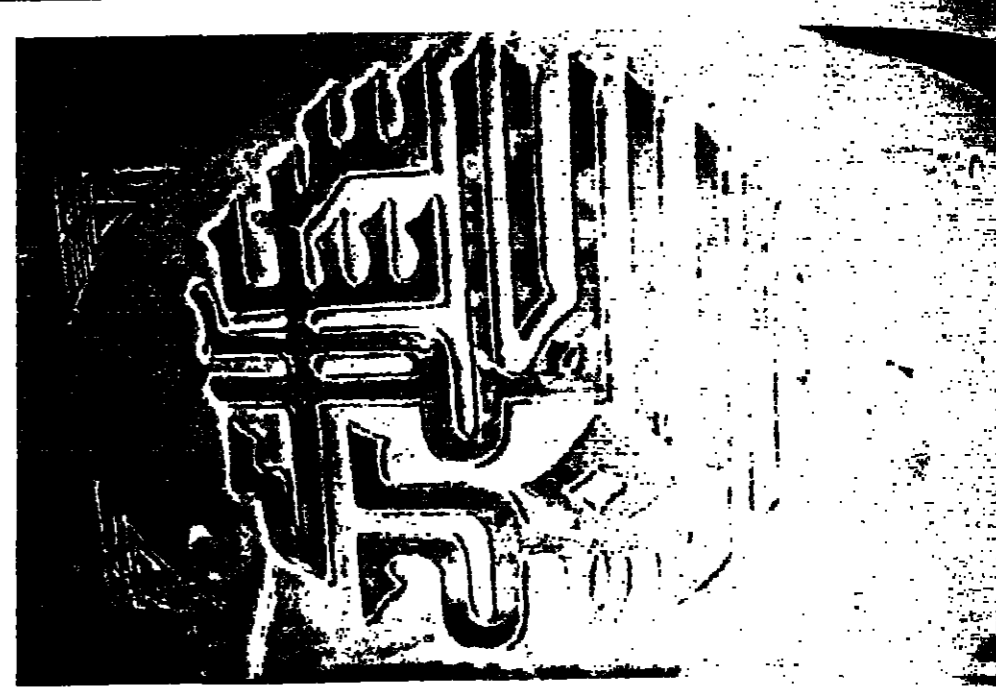
Mr. Nuseirat's most attractive and delicate work has been made on the potters wheel, where he produces small, often oddly shaped, pots in deep blue or subtle grey-green glazes — sometimes bent to form elliptical shapes, or sometimes pinched outwards at the corners. The best of these are a series of three turquoise and blue pots of different sizes, which have the satisfying shape of an elongated lobster pot.

Mr. Nuseirat however prefers to mould the clay by hand and he feels he can express himself more satisfactorily with coil pottery sculptural pieces and calligraphic plaques. These pieces tend to be much larger, and the clay much thicker, and there is a feeling of heaviness and solidity about them, especially the organically decorated jars.

Among the best of the sculptural pieces is "Reflection" whose three dimensional geometry is enhanced by gridded textural qualities. His more classically-shaped pieces — like the large blue lidded pot — work better than the flaccid organic works which lack the strength of a good design.

Miss Batshoun's work is in many ways similar to that of Mr. Nuseirat's, but there are some good pieces that show the emergence of her own style. Again coil work takes priority over pieces thrown at the wheel, but Miss Batshoun exploits the roundness and length of the coil itself by allowing it to form a flowing design in the texture of the pot or by using a single strand as a decorative motif.

A set of three pots with finger-like projections of different lengths works well, as does a small light green vase which utilises the idea of a snail crawling up its side, while most attractive of all is a petrol-blue jewelry box which is carefully engraved with a traditional Islamic design.



Calligraphic plaque by Issam Nuseirat



Vivian Batshoun's work depicts the emergence of her own style



Difficult to classify, Maha Otaqui's works are best described.

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ECONOMY

U.S. car companies caught in tight cash flow squeeze

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 (R) — American car companies, beset by sports and high interest rates, face a severe cash flow problem which is unlikely to improve until 1982, the government said yesterday.

The department said it would be difficult for the domestic industry to ever again reach the high profit and sales of past decades. It pointed to preference for imported small cars and reduced overall demand owing to high interest rates and the current U.S. economic recession as reasons for the pessimistic outlook.

Under intense administration pressure, Japan announced in May it was voluntarily restraining car exports to the United States to 1.68 million cars this year — an expected 16.8 per cent penetration of the U.S. market at the time.

B.L. strike intensifies

BIRMINGHAM, England, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — A strike idling auto production lines at state-run British Leyland (B.L.) intensified yesterday as unions introduced round-the-clock picketing at Longbridge, Birmingham, largest of the financially troubled company's 32 factories.

East Germany faces fuel supplies cut

EAST BERLIN, Dec. 2 (R) — East German industry faces cuts in fuel supplies next year, possibly because of reduced deliveries from the Soviet Union, according to informed sources.

sources in London said. They added that Moscow hoped that gas exports to the West would assume a bigger role in the later 1980s. East German party leader Erich Honecker told the Communist Party Central Committee last month that the Politburo had decided as much as possible should be done to substitute domestic energy for imported oil and gas.

Seoul eager for Olympic business boom

SEOUL'S SUCCESS attracting 1988 Olympic Games is expected to give a new impetus to Korean economy. The positive "olympic business boom" already begun, with a phenomenal rally in the stock market, could have special reasons to be doubled international confidence and reputation. Among them are:

The construction industry will be blessed with record-high demand thanks to the 1988 Olympics. About \$2,280 million will be necessary to construct sports facilities, an athletes' village and the related facilities for the 1988 Olympics, according to an estimate by the Seoul organizers.

investment registered an annual growth rate of 40.9 per cent in 1960 and 36.8 per cent in 1961. In the Olympic period, the Japanese annual economic growth rose to 12 per cent, which economists say led to the present prosperity of the Japanese economy.

90 per cent and 66 per cent, respectively, in 1965 as compared with eight per cent each in 1957. But the Olympics have not always created prosperity in their host countries. Munich, Montreal and Moscow may be called Olympic "victims," as they suffered financial losses due to their excessive investment in the Olympic Games.

TV licence up to £46 in U.K.

LONDON, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — Britons pay more for their year's television viewing starting today. Home Secretary William Whitelaw told the House of Commons yesterday he is raising the state licence fee, which funds television and radio services of the British Broadcasting Corp., for the nation's 18.6 million people with T.V. receivers.

Pakistan to get \$3.15m loan

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — The International Finance Corporation (IFC), an affiliate of the World Bank, announced today that it is helping finance a plant in Pakistan that will produce a sweetener from the residues of rice milling and cut down the need for importing sugar.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON, Dec. 2 (R) — Share prices were closing mixed in quiet trading as the market awaited details of the Chancellor of Exchequer's economic statement due this afternoon, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was down 2.6 at 528.2.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION FOR THURSDAY and FOR FRIDAY. Lists programs for channels 3, 5, and 6.

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ARRIVALS and DEPARTURES. Lists flight arrivals and departures.

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MUSEUMS, CHURCHES, CULTURAL CENTRES, EMERGENCIES, SERVICE CLUBS, PHARMACIES, and TAXIS. Lists various services and their locations.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES and MARKET PRICES. Lists exchange rates and market prices for various goods.

RADIO JORDAN FOR THURSDAY. Lists radio programs.

BBC WORLD SERVICE FOR THURSDAY & FRIDAY. Lists BBC world service programs.

VOICE OF AMERICA and AMMAN AIRPORT. Lists Voice of America programs and airport information.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS. Lists useful telephone numbers.

MARKET PRICES. Lists market prices for various goods.

SPORTS

Faisally edges towards top



AMMAN, Dec. 2 (J.T.) — Amman's goalkeeper (photo) saving an attack by Faisally's Basem Murad in a game played this afternoon at the Sports City Stadium. Amman scored only one goal, but that was

not enough to halt Faisally's drive towards the top of the Premier Division. Faisally's two goals gave them two extra points to make a total of 24 and place them second in the standings table.

Another Czech tennis star emerges

MELBOURNE, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — The emergence of yet another brilliant young Czech star today overshadowed the seeded players' victories in the \$200,000 Toyota Australian Open at Kooyong. Sixteen-year-old junior Helena Sukova stormed into the third round of the title, defeating the world's eighth-ranked player, American Barbara Potter 6-4, 6-3.

Sukova is not ranked in the first 250 on the women's computer list, but the situation should shortly change dramatically. The tall Czech today overpowered the American with her speed, strength and exceptional reach.

She stamped her mark on the tournament in the opening round with another straight sets win, this time over American Anne Smith who is ranked number 16 in the world.

But Sukova now faces a massive test in a third round match against Czechoslovakia's defending champion Hana Mandlikova.

Although they have never played each other in a tournament outside of Czechoslovakia, they have met a number of times in

national events.

Six weeks ago they faced each other in the semifinals of the Czech championships on clay and Mandlikova won in straight sets.

Sukova is the daughter of 1962 Wimbledon runner-up Vera Sukova, who for some time also coached Mandlikova.

Although the centre court confrontation here will be a critical test, Sukova said she stopped getting nervous before matches six years ago and she also knows Mandlikova's game.

Against Potter she acknowledged that she had nothing to lose and went for as many shots as possible, pulling many on them off.

Of the seeded players only England's Sue Barker took more than two sets to win.

Barker defeated rising young German Eva Pfaff 6-3, 1-6, 6-2. She said later that although her form had improved this year, when she arrived in Australia she found she had not enough power and was not timing the ball well.

Barker said she found Pfaff a difficult person to play: "You never know what she's going to do. She has so much talent that she

can't make up her mind what shot she wants to play," said Barker. "And I couldn't get to the net because I wasn't getting too many first serves in and couldn't put any pressure on her."

Barker now meets pig-tailed young American Andrea Jaeger, who has an intimidating 6-1 winning record over the English girl.

But none of her victories have been on grass and Sue Barker has been visiting Australia for ten years.

In their most recent meeting in the U.S. clay court quarterfinals Jaeger beat Barker in three sets.

Bettina Bunge, the 12th seed who today defeated American Anne Kiyomura, faces Queensland's Wendy Turnbull tomorrow and has a 2-1 record against her.

American Kathy Jordan has a daunting task against Czech-born American Martina Navratilova. Navratilova has won all of her seven encounters, including one at Wimbledon on grass.

Top seed Chris Evert-Lloyd cruised through to the quarterfinals along with the number two seed Tracy Austin and another American Pam Shriver. Shriver and Austin will face each other on Friday for a place in the semifinals.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
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Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠83 ♥Q872 ♦AK53 ♣1063
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J1097532 ♥KQ52 ♠93
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
Pass Pass 4 ♠ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠QJ87543 ♥95 ♠A843
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠
Dble Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT 3 ♠ Pass Pass
Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK1073 ♥9863 ♦8 ♠AKJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ Dble 2 ♥ ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠9 ♥85 ♦KQ1085432 ♠J6
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
3 ♠ 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♠
Pass 4 ♠ Dble Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South with 60 on score you hold:

♠AK982 ♥J76 ♦A105 ♠QJ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Pakistan searches for new test players

PORT LINCOLN, South Australia, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — The Pakistan cricket team will begin a search for new test players in the one-day match against a South Australian country eleven in this seaside town west of Adelaide Thursday.

Three young batsmen will be tested in the match for the third and final test against Australia in Melbourne, starting on December 11.

They are Mansoor Akhtar, 24, Saleem Malik, 18, and Rizwan-Uz-Zaman, 19.

All three came to Australia with very promising form and could play a role in restoring Pakistani pride after their two test defeats.

Pakistan will play three Benson and Hedges World Series Cup matches before the final test and changes to the test line-up seem likely.

U.S. leads Europe in their first tennis confrontation

BARCELONA, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — America led Europe 4-3 after the three first matches of the second day for the first three-day, eight-player tennis meeting between the two continents yesterday.

There is little doubt the match against the combined country XI is the start of the Pakistani's searching.

Assistant team manager Shafiq Rana said today: "We must treat this game seriously."

Mansoor and Rizwan-Uz-Zaman especially, will be watched closely.

Both played in the first test in Perth, but were dropped from the Brisbane match.

And Saleem, although he is yet to play a test, is regarded as one of the most exciting finds among Pakistan's young batsmen.

The tourists go into Thursday's 50 over match without captain Javed Miandad and paceman Imran Khan.

They are resting in Adelaide with three other tourists, Zaher Abbas, Sarfaraz Nawaz and Wasim Raja.

Kareem Abdul Jabbar claims record

NEW YORK, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has moved within one notch of becoming the National Basketball Association's all-time leading scorer, and the Utah Jazz has come closer to carving its own niche in the record book.

Abdul-Jabbar scored 14 points last night as the Los Angeles Lakers trounced the Jazz 117-86, but it was his basket in the first quarter that earned him a standing ovation from the 11,384 fans at the forum. The left-handed hook gave him seven points for the game and 26,711 points in his career, one more than Oscar Robertson. Wilt Chamberlain is the all-time leader with 31,419.

After Abdul-Jabbar's heroics, the Jazz seemed star-struck, scoring five points in the second quarter as the Lakers took a 59-35 halftime lead. Although NBA records for fertility are incomplete, it was believed to be the second-lowest scoring performance by any team since the NBA's 24-second shot clock rule started in 1954.

The Buffalo Sabres scored four points in a quarter of a game against Milwaukee in 1972.

In other NBA games last night, it was New York 112, Detroit 110, Philadelphia 107, Atlanta 98, Indiana 90, Boston 87, San Antonio 110, Washington 99, Milwaukee 126, Cleveland 110, Kansas City 106, Houston 104, Portland 121, Denver 113, Phoenix 117, San Diego 94 and

Seattle 103, Chicago 87.

It's a relief now that it's all over (passing Robertson)," said Abdul-Jabbar. "I personally haven't put a lot of emphasis on becoming the No. 2 scorer, but it's an honour and I'm very pleased. I'm more concerned with making the Lakers No. 1 not me No. 1."

The 7-foot-2 centre said he wouldn't "stick around just to try to top Wilt's record. I'm very fortunate to have the kind of career I've had, with so many highlights. This is another."

He said he "faintly disapproves of individual statistics and stopping the game like they did tonight because basketball is a team game. However, I guess the public judges players on their statistics."

Robertson, who came on the court to congratulate Abdul-Jabbar on his record, said he "is the best shooting centre ever and a much better passer than people give him credit for. Despite his size, he's really a finesse player. You have to play a lot of games to get this kind of a record, and that gets back to Kareem's durability."

Magic Johnson led a balanced Los Angeles scoring attack with 19 points, while Jamaal Wilkes added 18 and Mitch Kupchak 17. Julius Erving led a second-half surge as Philadelphia avenged its only loss of the season by beating Atlanta.

Erving scored 19 of his game-high 30 points in the second half, including 11 in the third quarter when the 76ers took the lead for

good and went on to improve the record to 14-1, including 1 straight victories. The only loss was to the Hawks Nov. 6.

Boston lost for only the 11th time in 16 games as Indiana Johnny Davis scored 15 of 1 game-high 21 points in the second half, including six in a row late the game.

Davis tied the game for the 14 and final time at 82-82 with the five minutes left, sank a layup give the Pacers the lead and then completed the spurt with two free throws with 2:26 left.

Phoenix won its fourth straight game and eighth in a row over San Diego as Truck Robinson scored 25 points and Kyle Macy 12.

The Clippers were still in a game entering the fourth quarter but the Suns scored 39 points: the final period to win going away. Calvin Natl scored 30 points and led a solid Portland rebounding effort with 14 as the Blazers beat Denver.

The Trail Blazers over rebounded the Nuggets 33-13 the first half and took a 62-46 lead at intermission. Denver came back to cut the lead to two points with 9:47 left, but Moe Thompson led an 11-0 spurt to seven points as Portland pulled away. Dan Issel led Denver with 34 points.

Maurice Lucas scored season-high 28 points and pulled in 19 rebounds to lead New York over Detroit.

A basket by Lucas, who scored 12 points in the first quarter, gave the Knicks an 11-10 lead, and they never trailed after that. Another basket by the 6-9 power forward gave them their largest lead 67-51 midway through the third quarter.

Cliff Robinson scored 24 points and Phil Ford's basket with 40 seconds left gave Kansas City four-point lead over Houston.

The Rockets led 97-92 midway through the final period, but the Kings outscored Houston down the stretch. Moses Malone led scorers with 34 points for Houston.

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Liverpool, Arsenal to replay

LONDON, Dec. 2 (A.P.) — Liverpool's Ray Kennedy was sent off for the second time this season, but the League Cup holders clung on last night for a scoreless draw to force a fourth-round replay against his old club, Arsenal.

The former England midfielder player was given his marching orders in the 38th minute at High-bury after he elbowed Arsenal's tough-tackling Peter Nicholas in the face. It was similar to the blow that brought his dismissal against Aston Villa in September.

In the second replay of a third-round League Cup match, West Bromwich finally bested West Ham 1-0 on the strength of an 85th-minute breakaway goal from Cyril Regis. West Ham's Paul Allen and West Bromwich's Ally Brown both were sent off and West Ham's David Cross left with a knee injury in the wild and bruising contest.

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